

VISCIDITY AS A SEED-DISTRIBUTOR.—On a recent short botanical excursion with a thirteen year old son, he called my attention to a bunch of dried stems of *Cerastium nutans* which by his pocket lens he had discovered to be “covered with small lice sticking to the glands.” These proved to be seeds, which, adhering in this way to the sticky stems, were thus blown to long distances, and widely distributed! We have had suggestions that viscid glands are for the purpose of absorbing nitrogenous matter,—for obstructing the advance of unwelcome guests,—possibly for some other purposes,—but I have never heard of the seed-distribution. We know that when a dead cat is placed at the root of a grape vine, the plant is often invigorated thereby, but we do not believe that cats were especially designed for grape vine roots, or the roots especially adapted for feeding on dead cats, though indirectly this may be so, and I fancy much of what we hear about “arrangements” in plant structure or behavior, amounts to but little more. Still it is always a gain to know the *fact*, whatever it may be, hence I send you this note —T. MEENAN.

NOTES FROM ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.—I suppose that as I write, Oct. 21st, the collecting season is nearly over for northern botanists, while here the wild flowers are blooming in great profusion, and will continue to do so for two or three weeks longer. In ordinary seasons the last two weeks of November and the whole of December afford very little of botanical interest in this section. Nature seems to take a short rest, and January begins the season again with *Viola lanceolata*, *V. cucullata*, *Oldenlandia rotundifolia*, and perhaps *Pinguicula lutea*, *P. pumila* and *P. elatior*.

September and October of this year have been terribly rainy months, making collecting almost impossible. However, four or five days just spent at a “settlement” a few miles from St. Augustine, have yielded good returns. We passed one day, notwithstanding frequent showers, in voyaging over the pine-barrens in a Florida cart, going wherever there seemed to be anything worth gathering. The wet season had caused acres of pine-barren land to bloom with *Bignonia nudata*, DC., while here and there the milk-white corymbs and blossom-stems of *Cacalia ovata*, Walt. made that pretty flower very conspicuous. I saw three or four small specimens of *Hydrolea corymbosa*, Ell. although it is now late in the season for it. It is very beautiful with its bright blue corolla and filaments and golden anthers. There were immense, partially submerged patches of the aromatic *Herpestis amplexicaulis*, Pursh., the bright blue of its blossoms nearly